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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
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In Cooperation with State and Federal Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 2, 1945
(Sixth Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1945)

Cotton improved markedly during the week. Temperatures around 90° over most of the belt and above 95° in some areas the latter part of the week stimulated growth and helped in reducing the large numbers of weevils that survived the winter. Emergence from hibernation continues heavy and weevils are still numerous in many fields. It is still too early for much damage in most areas and hot, dry weather may check the weevils. Reports indicate serious infestations in southern Texas.

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: Scattered showers occurred in northern, eastern, and western Texas during the week. In some areas of the western part of the State the drought was practically broken, which will aid in germination of cotton seed and benefit crops in general. In the most advanced fields in the southern part of the State mature bolls are present.

Emergence of 114 weevils from the hibernation cages at Waco brought the total to 4.3% on June 1. The emergence to this date was 0.8% in 1944, 0.05% in 1943, 0.2% in 1942, and 12.3% in 1941. However, weevils were less abundant in the fields in this area than last week and during this period last year, probably due to lack of squares and dry weather.

In 230 fields in 20 counties in southern Texas the infestation averaged 23% as compared to 17.7% punctured squares last week. Nine percent of the fields were not infested; 29% had less than 10% infested squares; 29% ranged from 11 to 25% infestation; 19% ranged from 26 to 50% infestation; and 14% of the fields had more than 50% of the squares punctured. Infestations of over 25% punctured squares were reported from 16 counties.

OKLAHOMA: A few boll weevils were observed on cotton plants in Lincoln, Pottawatomie and Seminole Counties.

LOUISIANA: Stands are poorer than average but cotton made rapid growth this week. Emergence continued in hibernation cages at Tallulah and is 8% to date which is almost as high as in 1937 and 1941 and much higher than in any of the other past years since 1931. Weevils were found at the rate of 108 per acre in the fields examined at Tallulah. Seventy-two weevils per acre were found during the last week of May last year, 205 in 1943, 44 in 1942, and 130 in 1941.

MISSISSIPPI: It is estimated that not over 90% of a stand of cotton was obtained around Stoneville. The first weevils in this section were observed on May 29 in 3 fields adjacent to woods with high ridges that were not flooded. No weevils were found on cotton in low sections where a great deal of the woods were flooded last winter.

ALABAMA: Dr. J. M. Robinson of Auburn reports "The boll weevil is here in good numbers. However, the cotton is late and the weather the past week has been hot. If this kind of weather continues the first generation, which seems destined to be large, will be controlled as it was in 1944." (over)

GEORGIA: In several fields examined in Early and Seminole Counties in southwestern Georgia the infestations averaged over 20% punctured squares, which is high this early in the season in Georgia, but very hot weather later in the week may have reduced the weevil population.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Conditions were ideal for plant growth at Florence, S.C. The early cotton in a few fields is beginning to square. From the hibernation cages 308 boll weevils had been removed by June 2 as compared to 105 in 1944, 215 in 1943 and 211 in 1942. A total of 87 boll weevils were removed from the 1/5-acre trap plot of cotton last week as compared to 27, 63, and 70 during the three previous weeks. A total of 295 weevils have been taken from this plot so far this spring as compared to 64 in 1944 and 113 in 1943. In Florence County boll weevils were found in 21 of the 22 fields examined. There were approximately 250 weevils per acre which is slightly more than twice as many weevils per acre as were in these fields a year ago at this time.

COTTON FLEA HOPPER

Cotton flea hoppers have been reported so far this year only from Texas. No alarming infestations have developed, but in some fields in the southern counties it has been necessary for farmers to use insecticides to check the hopper damage. In 23% of the fields examined, no hoppers were found; in 57% of the fields there were less than 10 flea hoppers per 100 terminal buds; in 17% of the fields there were from 11 to 25 hoppers per 100 buds; in 2% of the fields from 26 to 50 flea hoppers; and in only 1% of the fields were there more than 50 hoppers per 100 terminal buds. The farmers in 35 of these fields in 9 counties were using insecticides to control the hoppers.

OTHER PLANT BUGS

In the El Paso Valley of Texas plant bugs were on the increase and 43 Lygus and 8 Adelphocoris were taken per 100 sweeps with a net. In the Salt River Valley of Arizona Lygus are more abundant on alfalfa and other host plants than a year ago and the present prospect is that these insects may be as abundant as in 1943. In the Santa Cruz Valley of Arizona the important stink bugs and plant bugs (Euschistus impictiventris, Chlorochroa sayi, Creontiades femoralis, and Adelphocoris superbus) are more numerous than a year ago at this time, while the less injurious bugs (Thyanta custator, Lygus spp., and Psallus seriatus) are not as numerous as a year ago.

COTTON APHID

The severe aphid infestations in the coastal areas of Texas have been reduced and cotton has made rapid recovery. Aphids are increasing and control may be needed in some fields in the lower Rio Grande Valley. At Tallulah, La., some cotton plants in all fields were heavily infested, but the infestations are generally light.

BOLLWORM

In the hibernation cages at Waco, Texas, the emergence of bollworm moths so far this spring has been 44% as compared to 9% in 1944; 28% in 1943; 0.3% in 1942; and 23% in 1941. The survival of bollworms is numerous enough to cause serious damage in the cotton fields of Texas if conditions during the summer are favorable for their development. However, during the week they were reported from cotton fields in only 5 counties.

THRIPS

At Tallulah, La., thrips were only about one-third as abundant on cotton as during the same period in 1944, 1943, and 1942.

In Washington and Bolivar Counties in the Delta section of Mississippi thrips damage was noted in all fields examined and the damage to cotton is more serious than during any year since 1940. In the El Paso Valley of Texas thrips are still causing damage but the oldest plants are beginning to recover. This practically describes the condition in most of the southern half of Texas.

GRASSHOPPERS

Grasshoppers have become abundant in many fields in the vicinity of Waco, Texas. McLennan County Agent Patterson has had many calls for poison this week and is supplying many applicants. Several fields of cotton, including one of 200 acres, are being injured. Considerable poisoning for grasshopper control is also being done in Caldwell, Milam and Robertson Counties.

MISCELLANEOUS

Beet armyworms were still noted in cotton fields in Arizona but they have caused but little commercial damage to cotton this year.

The cabbage looper has been noted on cotton plants at Marana, Arizona.

The Blapstinus beetles mentioned on May 12 as abundant in Arizona cotton fields were apparently controlled by irrigation as no recent indication of their injury has been noted.

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SECRET

1. The following information was obtained from a confidential source who has provided reliable information in the past.

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